

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **MADISON COUNTY**

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## 2025 By the Numbers

- **15,458** direct contacts
- **473** youth participants
- **48** volunteers
- **3,000** volunteer hours
- **\$165,449** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Madison County: Elise Allen, Cheryl Empey, Shaun Blaser, Stefanie Perry, Gale Harding, Chris Johnson, Kimberly Davis, Jared Williams and Todd Smith.

## UI Extension Educators



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## 2025 Impact

UI Extension, Madison County had an outstanding year in 2025. Lance Hansen taught financial literacy to classrooms that were packed with youth, including Welcome to the Real World, Employment Feud and Night of the Living Debt. Participants left knowing how to stretch 10 bucks into 10,000, why compound interest is basically wizardry, and that grabbing your first job isn't just cash, it's freedom. Hansen teamed up with Extension educators and the Idaho Farm Bureau to produce two videos featuring real families, real sweat, and real hope addressing mental health and suicide. Jared Gibbons staged the first-ever Upper Valley Soil Health Forum, with 64 growers from Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming attending. Among attendees, 70% improved efficiency, 60% increased profits and 80% improved the longevity of their operations. Kandee Boice rolled out six 4-H programs across the county, reaching over 300 youth now wired for leadership. Fantastic support from county commissioners and other partners helped make it all happen.

## 4-H in Madison County

The UI Extension, Madison County 4-H program was energized and impactful in 2025. Sixty-four 4-H'ers attended the Alpine 4-H Camp, building lasting memories and forging new friendships. Day camps included information on Dutch oven cooking, disc golf, pickleball, cake decorating, shooting sports, drones, LEGO robotics, rocketry and livestock lessons. Volunteers taught youth animal care, prepping them for the livestock shows. The Born and Raised livestock program was on full display, with local livestock bred and sold to 4-H'ers. Pigs and sheep were added to the carcass contests, highlighting top-quality animals on display at the Madison County Fair. The support 4-H and FFA youth receive from the community is outstanding; there is no better fair to attend during the summer. Gibbons kept his Soil Exploration program rolling, teaching 66 grade schoolers soil fundamentals and the wild microscopic world. Building on last year's program, he's developing a formal curriculum aligned with state standards for fourth and fifth-grade students. Youth gained real knowledge, dug deeper into soil science and were seriously motivated. The 4-H program is a win for growing confident, hardworking, science-savvy leaders.

## On the Horizon

The UI Extension, Madison County team looks forward to making real impacts, helping farmers thrive, boosting 4-H youth programs and tackling issues such as mental health on the farm, while listening to the advisory board to keep things local and relevant. Gibbons will be developing publications on plant science and microbiology to boost grower sustainability. He's also working on pasture management videos and next generation agronomy focused on soil health and ecosystems. Look for the Mindful Moolah podcast with Luke Erickson and Lance Hansen on the eight dimensions of health and how they tie to financial success. A farm-stress survival podcast series will tackle real issues as they relate to coping with stress. More short videos with Idaho Farm Bureau will be produced, sharing real stories from Idaho families about dealing with stress and raising awareness of mental health issues. A part-time 4-H assistant will be hired to help deal with recent growth, recruit volunteers and welcome new participants to the UI Extension, Madison County 4-H family.